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"We Keep 'Em Flying: NA Tech Tra Cen", circa 1944

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WE KEEP 'EM FLYING

NA Tech Tra Cen

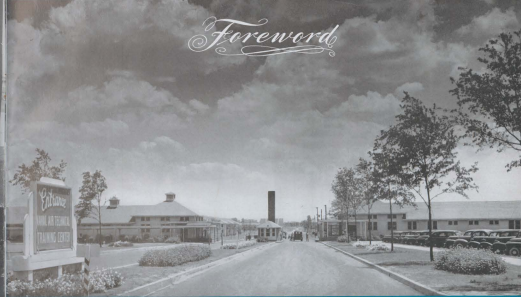
MEMPHIS, TENN.





Waves of NATTC 

Foreword



☆ The Naval Air Technical Training Center is an activity of the Naval Air Technical Training Command, established for the training of Aircrewmen to service and man the planes of the Navy. It was commissioned on 23 September, 1942, immediately activating three great schools—the Aviation Machinist's Mate School, the Aviation Ordnancemen's School, and the Aviation Radioman's School. Since that date, Rocketeers, WAVES and Marines by the tens of thousands have completed courses here and have gone forth to serve their country at home and abroad. Also, a num-

ber of other schools, smaller but of great importance, have been added, and each of these has likewise made its contribution to the preparing of men for the grim business of winning a war. A complete city in itself, offering within its gates every facility that the Navy man might need for health, comfort and recreation, NATTC will continue to turn out crack Aircrewmen until our enemies have been struck from the face of the earth and the Commander-in-Chief can say in all sincerity, "Well done, all hands. Belay action."



*Hail to the ship
Which yon mantle adorns
For 'twas in ships like this
That our navy was born.*

☆ In the Sargasso Sea lie the hallowed hulks of America's immortal battle-wagons . . . ships of yesterday that fearlessly closed with the enemy . . . carrying dauntless crews that swept sea lanes clear of vaunted foeman and black-flag pirate. For our Navy is rich in tradition . . . blessed with a bounty of heroes whose names echo through the ages . . . whose daring deeds upon the swelling bosom of the seven seas are an ever present challenge to those of us who trod the decks in their footsteps.



☆ The production of trained Aircrewmen to man the fighting planes of our nation's Navy is the sole reason for the existence of this activity. Every single person attached to this station, whether in uniform or out, is dedicated to that cause, conscious that individual failure here in any particular task will prolong by just that much the duration of the struggle and will endanger to an equivalent extent the lives of gallant Americans. Thus is given to us an important share in the great over-all assignment of investing the fleet with wings. We shall not fail in the execution thereof.

J. C. Montfort



Our Commanding Officer



☆ Nerve center for the training activity is the Administration Building, depicted here, on a late summer evening. Lights are already ablaze in the several departments as night crews work at assigned duties.

In appreciation for their service we dedicate this pictorial booklet to those Bluejackets, WAVES and Marines who have passed through the portals of this station, training or working here for a time, on their way to duties at other stations or on the battlefronts scattered throughout the seven seas.

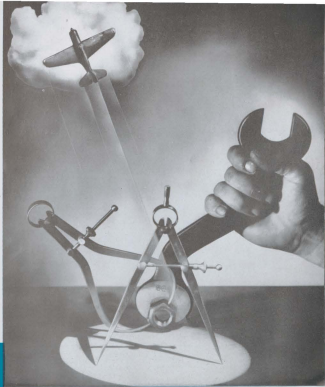


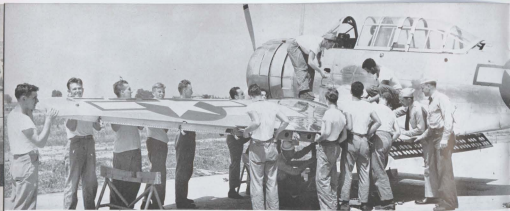
Aviation Machinists' Mate School

☆ The Aviation Machinist Mate stands high among Navy men because his precise workmanship and technical judgment assures the safety of shipmates and equipment.

The Memphis "Mech" School, equipped with the latest Navy planes and engines and staffed by highly trained instructors, uses select, modern teaching techniques.

Ablest young men with demonstrated mechanical aptitude are assigned to the rigorous twenty-one weeks course. Here the farm boy from Idaho, the factory worker from Detroit, the high school student from California—young men from all walks of life become trained in aircraft maintenance. After completing his studies in the several phases, each a series of specialty shops, the student knows the airplane from propeller spinner to empennage, from cockpit cover to landing wheel. Upon his shoulders will rest the responsibility of keeping the planes tuned to the tempo of modern warfare, to maintain them under all operating conditions, to "keep 'em flying."





UPPER: Replacing a wing on a Douglas 'Dauntless.' Addition of the aileron and flap will complete the assembly.

LOWER: Checking the instruments during a preflight inspection. Thoroughness of inspection is stressed to the trainees during these demonstrations.

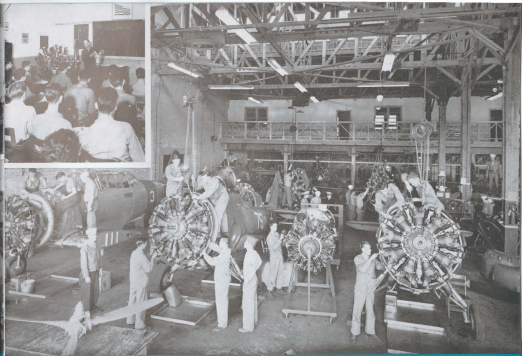
UPPER LEFT: Swiveling a rubber to the Controls Shop. Proper location of control cables is necessary.
UPPER RIGHT: Removing a propeller. Care must be exercised to prevent damage to towing parts.

LOWER CENTER: Doping a wing panel.
LOWER RIGHT: Checking for blade angle.



ENGINE FAMILIARIZATION SHOP

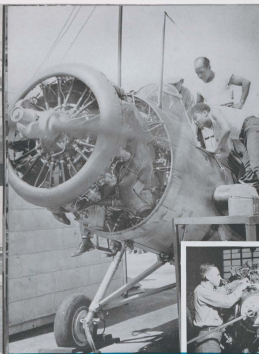
Here the trainee delves into the intricate mechanisms of 2000 horsepower engines to see what makes them tick. Inset: An instructor demonstrates his point.



ENGINE CHANGE SHOP

Here the trainee acquires the know-how of performing a "quick engine change." Engine is removed from plane and an overhead engine replaces it. Inset: A lecture period.





UPPER LEFT: Trouble Shooting. Improper performance is generally reflected in the instrument readings.



CENTER: Tuning of magnetos. Exact adjustments must be made to assure proper functioning.



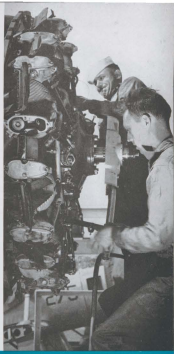
UPPER RIGHT: Mass and Engine Check.



Trainees in the SERC Line Maintenance repairing wingbolt mechanism and removing landing gear.



Trainees in the bomb bay of a "Helldiver" delving into the mysteries of the complicated hydraulic system.



Mech trainees preparing to check valve clearance on an R-1820 engine.



UPPER LEFT: Plane being given a test run after completion of major overhaul.

UPPER RIGHT: Trainee being instructed in plane handling.

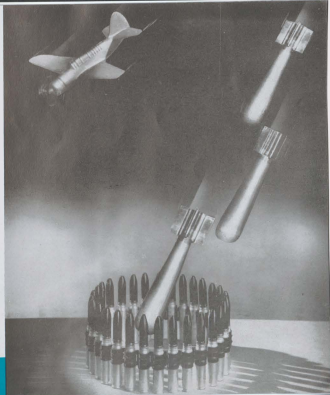
LOWER: Trainees giving planes the final check in preparation for simulated flight.



The Aviation Ordnanceman

☆ His job is the maintenance and installation of armament in naval aircraft. He must see that ordnance equipment is in precise working order before his aircraft zooms into the skyways. Aircraft may fly, but it can be neither an effective offensive or defensive weapon without armament that works flawlessly and efficiently.

The Aviation Ordnanceman maintains, repairs and installs aviation ordnance equipment including small arms, machine guns, aircraft automatic cannon, bomb racks and releasing mechanisms, and bomb handling equipment. In re-arming planes for combat he works with ammunition belts and drums, bombs, rockets, torpedoes and aerial mines. He overhauls all guns and synchronizes, bobsights and adjusts them. He works with aerial targets, towing equipment, flares and smoke screen apparatus. If qualified for air combat crew, the Aviation Ordnanceman may fly in any Navy plane except fighters, where he will man various guns as a member of the crew.





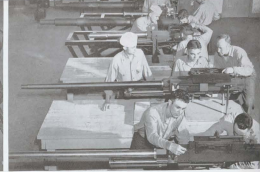
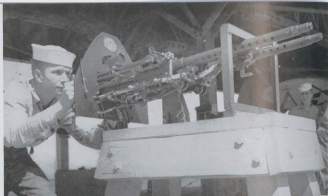
☆ Bomb section of operations with various tow targets on the bulkhead
INSET: Students installing nose fuzes in depth bomb and 500 lb bomb. ☆



☆ UPPER: A classroom lecture with mockups — on the theory of drive, mast head, and glide bombing.
LOWER: In Shop, learning the break-down of the head mechanism of a 20 mm. aircraft cannon. ☆

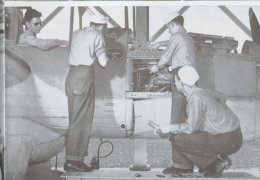


LEFT: Defense end of TBF showing a .50 cal. turret gun and a .30 cal. belly gun.



UPPER: Bore-sighting two .30 cal. gun mount of the type used on SBD-5.

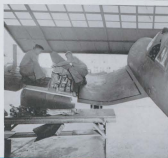
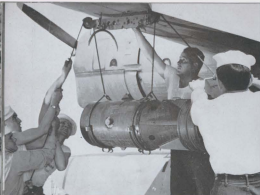
LOWER: Rearming TBF with straight torpedoes and machine guns.



UPPER LEFT: Loading .50 cal. machine gun ammunition magazines.
LOWER LEFT: Synchronizing a .30 cal. machine gun on a wood observation plane (SOAC).



UPPER RIGHT: Two .75 mm. and three .37 mm. aircraft cannons.
LOWER RIGHT: Bomb rack class working on a bomb shack.



UPPER LEFT: Hoisting 350 lb. depth bomb to wing of SOJC.

UPPER RIGHT: Rearming crew picking up a bomb load from dispersal area.

LOWER LEFT:

LOWER RIGHT:

Preparing tow target for towing operations.

Complete rearming on S.B.D.-5.

LOWER CENTER: 50 cal. installation on F4J.

LEFT: Ordnance crew installing a smoke tank on SBOC.



RIGHT: Rearming starboard wing of a PSY with depth bombs and loading a full magazine on the 50 cal. blaster gun.



ARMING FOR ACTION: Complete rearming of the planes on this line with all crews working together to get ready for a simulated take-off.
INSET: Aviation Mechanic Mates, Ordnancemen, and Radiomen work together to ready a TBF for action.

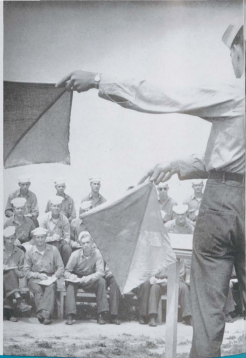


Aviation Radioman

☆ The trite statement: "Jack of all trades and master of none" does not apply to the Aviation Radioman. First of all he must be a Jack of all trades, but secondly, he must master all things which are part of his every day job.

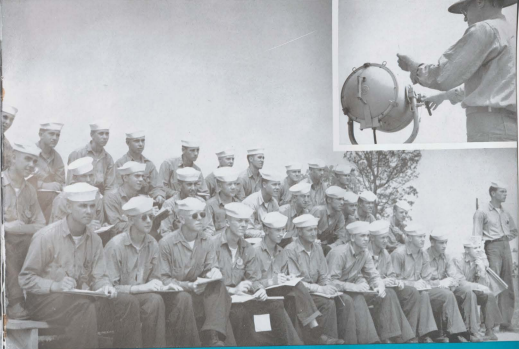
The Aviation Radioman must know his gear, be able to operate it efficiently and make minor repairs and emergency innovations. In addition, he must be able to utilize the several types of visual communications, be an accurate machine gunner, be cognizant of emergency plane captain duties and in short be a good all 'round member of a team that "clicks."



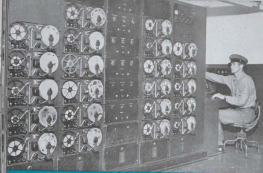


LEFT: Ability to communicate accurately by means of flag code enables the ADM to speak the language of the sea.

RIGHT: Designated flags are used to transmit intelligence when it is desired to preserve radio silence or when other equipment is not available.



LOWER: Close attention and intensive training being about proficiency in Binker.
INSET: Instructor uses a binker searchlight to send to close over long distances.



UPPER LEFT: Automatic code sending machines are used to maintain accurate sending speeds to students. Beginners in Code are carefully "grounded" in individual letters before speed is considered.



UPPER RIGHT: Radio Theory is kept practical and applied in interesting ways to make pertinent points stick. Proper microphone technique is stressed as a part of communications procedure.



UPPER: Aircraft Radio Equipment is studied in laboratories until sufficient operating skill is attained to permit the ARMC to go to plane pilots.
LOWER: Radio direction finders are mastered so that "skyways of the air" always lead to "home."

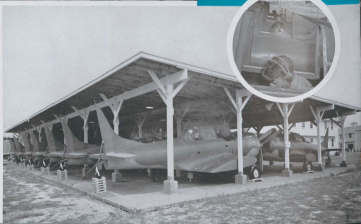


UPPER: WAVE operators communicate with students located in mock-up plane stations.

LOWER LEFT: Radioman in a 'big ship' makes contact with the base station to carry on traffic.

LOWER RIGHT: Mock-up groups are organized into squadrons similar to the one pictured.

INSET: Keeping a log of messages is a full time job which calls for absolute accuracy and correct procedure.



UPPER LEFT: The ARM learns Emergency Plans Captain duties and becomes familiar with his aircraft.

LOWER LEFT: Equipment-filled cockpits hold no mystery for advanced students.



UPPER RIGHT: Close supervision insures correct learning in Equipment Laboratories such as this one.

LOWER RIGHT: Every Radioman becomes acquainted with machine guns.

Primary Gunnery

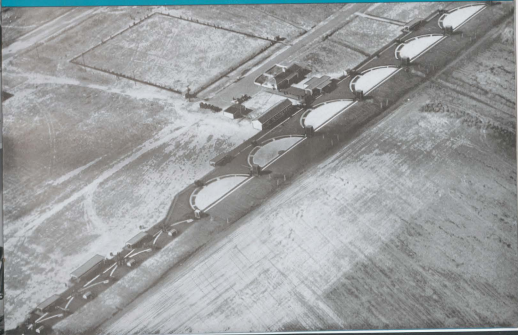
Much of the training in *Marksmanship* takes place at a far corner of the station known to all hands as the Shotgun Range.



LEFT: Proficiency in operation of equipment is necessary in shifting frequencies to establish communication.

UPPER RIGHT: The Radioman must be able to fight or communicate—he must do both well.

LOWER RIGHT: Principles learned in Theory and Equipment Operation are applied in taking radio bearings.





LEFT: Future gunner becomes acquainted with machine guns by field stripping Cal. 50 E.A.M.



CENTER: A gunner must know his target. Here is a class in aircraft recognition.

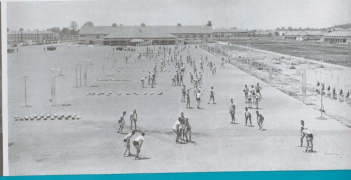


RIGHT: Getting the best of a flying day target.

PHYSICAL TRAINING

The Navy takes no chance on the condition of its Bluejackets. Every man is put into fighting trim as soon as possible after arrival here. Competitive events are staged, adding color and the excitement of victory to the regular Physical Training routine.





Plenty of action here. Baseball, "speed" ball, volley ball and the obstacle course are some of the sports in which the Bluejacket participates.



Every sailor learns to box. The better ones go on cards to entertain their shipmates. Basketball is one of the favorite games. With many outdoor as well as indoor courts every Bluejacket has an opportunity to participate in this invigorating sport.



UPPER LEFT: The early every-morning calisthenics.
UPPER RIGHT: Hard to hand combat training. An instructor shows how.

LOWER LEFT: Climbing rope ladders and cargo nets is a prelude to abandon ship exercises.
LOWER RIGHT: A good sea-breeze song for the 'WAVES'.



Classroom hours aren't all drudgery. There's plenty of diversion aboard, as witness these typical scenes of a recent stage production and a Recreation Building dance.





☆ The Navy works hard, but it plays with equal vigor in the off hours. River excursions, anniversary celebrations, USO shows, entertainment by our own personnel, dances, skating in Recreation Building C, and movies are among the favorite pastimes.



UPPER LEFT: Chief Petty Officers' Club.
UPPER RIGHT: Petty Officers' Club.

LOWER LEFT: Interior view of one of recreation halls.
LOWER RIGHT: A convenient lounge for the fleetbuckit waiting for that call home to go through.



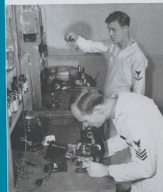
Medical Care

UPPER LEFT: It's time for shots — a scene familiar to every sailor.

UPPER RIGHT: Modern hospital facilities for those who need them.

LOWER LEFT: Behind the scenes — Pharmacist's Mates run tests in a well equipped laboratory.

LOWER RIGHT: The Yanks are coming. Maybe it won't hurt.



Divine services for all creeds are well attended. These are interior views of Livermore Chapel and special outdoor services.



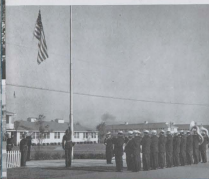


The Commanding Officer presides when all hands turn out for memorial services, "D" Day prayer, and to honor visiting dignitaries.



Every Bluejacket gets his share of Drill and the Manual of Arms under supervision of the efficient Military Training Department.



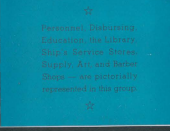
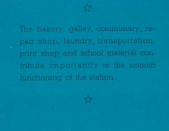


VISITING DIGNITARIES: (1) Admiral Keadell and Captain Briggs being welcomed by Captain Mottel. (2) Miss Annette. (3) Mendel Cotton. (4) Mayor Chandler, of Memphis, Commanding Officer and Commander Bushler, former Commanding Officer. (5) Lt. Gay, of Torpedo Squadron 8. (6) Frank Buck, with Wallace Officer. (7) "Johnny." (8) British sailors. (9) Lt. (jg) Robert Shack. (10) Captain Eddie Rosenbecker and son.



The Bluejacket Drum and Bugle Corps and the NATTC Military Band contribute effectively to the station's exercises. Also called upon frequently is the Marine Rifle Squad. None of the male organizations has a thing on the WAVES, however, when it comes to staging a genuine drill routine.





☆

The bakery, galley, commissary, repair shop, laundry, transportation, print shop and school material contribute importantly to the smooth functioning of the station.

☆

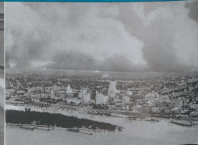
☆

Personnel, Disbursing, Education, the Library, Ship's Service Stores, Supply, Art, and Barber Shops — are pictorially represented in this group.

☆



☆ Snow aboard and sunshine ashore along the Memphis river front are represented in the opposite corners of this page. Our Executive Officer and vigilant members of the Shore Patrol keep an eye out for the sailor's welfare and behavior on the station and in town. Such items as the station newspaper (The Blunderer), the Cook's Galleys and that liberty gangway at the Main Gate enhance his happiness at the Center. Note the anonymous intrusion of the Photographic Department at the left.



Here are pictured some of the buildings on the station—a row of barracks, Livermore Chapel, Dental Clinic in background, a school building and two of the four mess halls.





☆ The Commanding Officers' Quarters, Bachelor Officers' Quarters, Post Office, Recreation Halls, Dispensaries, and Warehouses are a few of the many buildings shown here. ☆



